Editorial Staff
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P. O. Box 1779
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Sharon A. Karson
1419 Tappan Circle #202
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

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Dear Sirs:

I awoke this morning to the appalling news that Amendment 2 had gained the approval of the voters in the state of Colorado. I was truly taken aback. I never, in my worst nightmares, dreamed that intelligent men & women of good will could make such an unwise move. When the civil liberties of **any** group of citizens are abrogated in such a manner, the civil liberties of **every** group become equally endangered. In order to protect your own civil liberties, you must protect the civil liberties of every man, woman & child in this country, no matter how repellant their non-violent behavior may be to you personally. Who will the religious right go for next? Let's take a look at the plans of a group of militant theocratic organizations. My source for much of this information is an article in the July 15th, 1992 issue of The Wall Street Journal (you don't get much more conservative than that!).

Let's look at our schools. All the children of the state are affected by their school curriculum. There exists an organization called Citizens for Excellence in Education (CEE). Their stated goal is to restore prayer to the schools, to teach Genesis as science, and to banish all materials that do not meet their standards from school curricula. They accomplish this by running stealth candidates for little attended school board and other local elections. One might understand why they might wish to censor something like Madonna's book, Sex; very fundamental sects might even understand their wish to ban the classic myths and legends that helped to form our civilization; but any intelligent human being would probably wonder at Little Red Riding Hood. Yes they actually managed to ban Little Red Riding Hood from the shelves of school libraries in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Robert Simmonds who founded and runs CEE states the separation of church and state is "a socialist myth." Until last year Mr. Simmonds also served on the national coordinating committee of the Coalition on Revival. The Coalition on Revival seeks to abolish the Federal Reserve System and all public schools by the year 2000. You might note this same group of people also supported Amendment 7. You have seen these groups in action in Colorado Springs and neighboring communities (Woodland Park, for example).

According to the article in The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Simmonds is also closely associated with Rev. Billy Falling of Escondido, California. In a recent book, The Political Mission of the Church, Mr. Falling, director of the Christian Voters League, says government must be "the police department within the Kingdom of God on earth," ready to "impose God's vengeance upon those who abandon God's laws of justice."

These are the kind of people who back issues like Amendment 2 and 7; these are the kind of people who accuse homosexual men & women of having an "agenda." I ask you to take a very close look at the "agenda" of the religious right. If you think that, as a Christian, you are exempt from losing your rights to this group, I ask you to take a careful look at history (Ireland being the most current example).

People of Colorado, you have made a terrible mistake. The people who backed Amendment 2 are radicals who plan to strip all of us of the precious civil liberties built into the Constitution; to impose their version of truth on all of us; and abolish our democracy to install a theocracy. If we allow them to succeed, anyone who disagrees with them is at risk of losing a great deal more than their civil liberties. I appeal to each and every man and woman of intelligence and good will in this state to help reverse this terrible travesty of justice and repeal Amendment 2.

Lastly, I leave you with a quote from Martin Niemoeller, a Protestant minister in Nazi Germany:

> "First they came for the Jews, but I wasn't a Jew, so I didn't react. Then they came for the communists, but I wasn't a communist, so I didn't object. Then they came for the homosexuals, but I wasn't a homosexual, so I didn't stand up. Then they came for the political activists, but I wasn't a political activist, so I didn't protest. Then they came for me...and by that time no one was left to stand up."

Please, don't let it happen again.

Sincerely,

S. A. Karson

Sharon A. Karson

cc: KKTV
KMGH
KOAA
KRDO
KTSC

Doug,
Here is the copy of my article I promised you. A copy of this letter + your Wall Street Journal article were mailed to the addresses, sc 's + Marion Stone of EPOC. As a matter of principle as well as self-interest, I stand ready to battle this kind of discrimination + the erosion of our civil rights whenever the rear their ugly head. I just wish I had written this before the election.